

18. (Amended) Device according to claim 17, [in which] wherein said conveying means (8) [include] comprise at least one belt (12) forming a loop of a fixed length and [in which] wherein said means for varying the length of the path [are constituted: :] comprises

[- by] a first pair of so-called driving drums (56a, 56b), serving to drive said belt (12),

[- by] means for actuating said driving drums (56a, 56b) capable of operating them at two respective separate speeds, and

[- by] a second pair of drums (58a, 58b) about which the belt (12) travels; the first (58a) and the second (58b) drums of said second pair being respectively provided between the first (56a) and the second (56b) driving drums and between the second (56b) and the first (56a) driving drums, according to the direction of travel of said belt (12), said first (58a) and second (58b) drums of said second pair being held at a constant distance from one another and said second pair being mobile in relation to said first pair.

#### IN THE ABSTRACT

On page 21, the paragraph has been amended as follows:

[The invention relates to a] A process and a device for the on-line storage of sets [(2)] of flat products [(1)] such as, in particular, disposable liners or sanitary napkins, in which said products [(1)] are transported between one or more input stations [(3)] and one or more output [stations (4) and in which:] stations.

[- said] The sets [(2)] are introduced at a given input rate at [said] input station or stations [(3)] between a pressing [means (6)] device, capable of moving with [said sets (2), said] the sets, the pressing [means (6)] device being in a first, so-called open, [configuration,] configuration.

[- said] The products are pressed against one another by causing [said] the pressing [means (6)] device to change over from their open configuration to a second, so-called product holding, [configuration,] configuration.

[- said sets (2)] The sets are directed towards [said] the output station or stations [(4)] at which they are ejected, at a given output rate, adapted as a function of the input rate, to manage an accumulation of sets [(2)] between [said] the input station or stations [(3)] and [said] the output station or stations [(4)]

[Fig. 1].